

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1
INCIDENT NO. 96-14

DATE: February 7, 1996 FINAL REPORT TIME: 11:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58504

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Train derailment at White Earth, Mountrail County.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: None.
3. DAMAGE: A Burlington Northern train of approximately 100 cars derailed Tuesday morning at the city of White Earth. Thirty to forty container cars and three engines left the track. Some derailed cars contained hazardous materials. The primary product released was diesel fuel from the train engines. The container cars had limited quantities of various hazardous products that had initially raised concerns for public safety.
4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: Tioga Fire Department and Ambulance and Rescue Squad, Mountrail Sheriff's Department, Mountrail Dispatch, and Mountrail County Emergency Management personnel responded. Burlington Northern Railroad safety and hazardous materials personnel were on site to conduct final assessment and to initiate cleanup.

STATE: North Dakota State Fire Marshal, the North Dakota State Health Department, State Radio Communications and State Division of Emergency Management (DEM) personnel responded. The Governor's Office and the North Dakota National Army Guard were briefed on the situation.

FEDERAL: The National Response Center and the Environmental Protection Agency were notified.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Several private companies with cargo on the train initiated contact with local and Burlington Northern officials.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS:

Local: Tioga Fire and Ambulance and Rescue Squads were on standby as a safety precaution until this morning. A Mountrail Sheriff's Deputy served as on-scene commander, and the

Mountrail County Emergency Manager coordinated emergency public information with the State emergency management officials.

State: The State Fire Marshal's office dispatched personnel to assist with initial assessment. State Health Department officials are working with Burlington Northern Railroad and local officials to ensure continued public and environmental safety. State Radio personnel provided communications support between on-scene responders and the State Emergency Operations Center. Burlington Northern Railroad has contracted to assure containment and cleanup.

Federal: No assistance was requested, although EPA officials have been briefed and the Corps of Engineers officials have been consulted. The National Weather Service provided site-specific wind and precipitation information.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No outside assistance is needed at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Burlington Northern officials will manage the cleanup, which will be monitored by State Health Department staff.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The cleanup challenge is to ensure: no further spillage occurs; clear the tracks; restore rail service; and ensure final clean-up meets environmental standards. Initial cleanup to restore service will be accomplished in a relatively short time, and total site restoration will take longer.

Signed _____
Douglas C. Friez
State Director